

**Hawaii Department of Agriculture - Pesticides Branch
2nd Quarter Report; EPA Region IX
January - March 2013**

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Personnel

In January, job interviews were conducted for the Environmental Health Specialist position in the Oahu Enforcement section. Ms. Victoria Fickle was selected and joined the Oahu Enforcement team in February 2013. She currently is being trained by EHS Steven Ogata.

Training

There were no EPA related trainings attended by staff during this quarter.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

Legislative:

HB 673: (As written)

SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to reduce the negative impacts of pesticides on public health and the environment through an accurate and detailed collection of pesticide use data that will allow for adequate and scientific assessments of potential health problems related to pesticide exposure.

SECTION 2. Chapter 149A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"PART . PESTICIDE USE REPORTING

§149A- Pesticide use reporting. The department shall establish and implement a pesticide use reporting system. The data collected by the department shall be published in an annual report, no later than July 1 of the year immediately following the year for which the data was collected, summarizing pesticide use in the State.

Status:

- HB 673 HD2 SD1 in its current form. Requests that RUP sales be posted on the HDOA website, with redactions for confidential business information and significant privacy information.
- Decision making not final.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 100 & HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 129:

REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE EFFECTS OF ATRAZINE ON HUMAN HEALTH.

Status:

- A pair of resolutions calling for the Department of Health Director Loretta Fuddy to establish a task force to study the chemical herbicide atrazine's effects on humans were passed with amendments on 4/11/13 by two house of representative committees.
- The task force would report its findings to the Legislature no later than Oct. 31, 2013.
- Opponents stated that no state-level task force could meet the scale of effort put forth by EPA to comprehend the vast amount of technical detail that supports atrazine's registration. State have relied on EPA's comprehensive and publicly-available reviews and regulatory judgment, rather than expend considerable resources to duplicate its efforts.

- Testimony against HCR 129 was provided by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. The department pointed out that EPA conducted health risk and environmental risk assessments and that Atrazine would be undergoing a special review in mid-2013.
- Decision making not final.

Registration/Licensing

Licensing

A total of 349 licenses were processed, with fees collected totaling \$115,170. Of these licenses, 213 were for new products and 136 were renewals.

Special Local Needs (Section 24c):

1 SLN Issued for use of ProTone SG (73049-461) on coffee to suppress flower bud break. This SLN was issued to assist in prevention of unsynchronized flowering. Allowing suppression of flower bud break and subsequent application of a growth regulator to induce flower set will result in even fruit development and ripening, increasing harvest efficiency and subjecting trees to less physical damage.

Section 18 Emergency Exemption:

2 Section 18's issued.

- a) Renewal of HopGuard Strips for use to control Varroa mite in beehives and packaged bees.
- b) Apivar Strips for use to control Varroa mite in beehives.

Experimental Use Permits (EUP): None

Waimea Canyon Air Quality Meetings

Background information: A study to monitor the air quality on the Island of Kauai was started as a result of numerous odor complaints from Waimea Canyon School teachers back in 2004. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture funded \$100,000 towards parts of the study related to pesticides. The Kauai County provided \$50,000 to characterize odors from a plant known as stinkweed, *Cleome gynandra*.

- On March 5, 2013, staff (T. Matsuda, G. Sahara, A. Kam and other individuals Dr. Lyle Wong, Dr. Qing Li, George Costa, Bill Spitz, Janet Ashman, and Jerry Ornellas met with 3 groups (listed); on Kauai to discuss the findings of the Waimea Air Ambient Study: George Costa presented an overview of the project, Dr. Qing Li presented his findings to the group and T. Matsuda presented a Pesticides 101 power point slideshow to the Teachers/Parents group.
 - Seed Corn Companies on Kauai; about 30 individuals
 - Teachers/Parents from Waimea Canyon School; ~ 8 individuals.
 - Waimea Business Community ~ 2 individuals
- On March 20, 2013, during the morning and early afternoon, the Waimea Canyon Air Quality Task Force along with and HDOA Deputy Director Scott Enright met with the Kauai County Council for about 5 hours. George Costa presented an overview of the project, Dr. Qing Li presented his findings to the group and T. Matsuda presented a Pesticides 101 power point slideshow.
- An evening meeting was held with the community from the Waimea Canyon area; ~ 200 residents attended. Dr. Peter Adler from Oahu, served as moderator for this event. Individuals were asked to write down their questions on pieces of paper in regards to the results of the Waimea Air Ambient Study or general questions on pesticide use. The use of a moderator was successful in controlling the flow of the meeting and made certain that most everyone had an opportunity to voice their concerns.

- During the weekend of 3/16/13, activists rallied the Waimea Canyon community with anti-GMO sentiments, noting the findings of atrazine in drinking water at the school reported to be at a level of 6ppt.

Chemical Analysis Laboratory (CAL)

- A total of 271 tests were run for 79 samples pertaining to 25 enforcement cases this quarter. All of these samples were finished by the GC/MS or LC/MS equipment. CAL staff has alerted the enforcement staff to submit samples which were on hold due to lab test equipment being down last quarter.
- Eight PT samples (beef vegetable soup) from FERN were done by LC/MS.

WORK PLANS:

Applicator Certification and Training Work plan:

- A total of 17 statewide certification examination sessions were held.
- One hundred thirty-five (135) examinees were tested in Private applicator or Commercial applicator categories.
- Out of these examinations, 33 individuals became newly certified applicators and another 37 individuals were re-certified in their appropriate work profession categories.
- Forty-nine (49) certified applicators collectively earned 185.5 recertification credits by taking quizzes.
- Fifty (50) CET training classes were held and attended by 432 certified applicators. These attendees collectively earned 605 recertification credits.

Development of WPS Handler and Worker narrated slideshow.

- In Hawaii, due to the different ethnic backgrounds of local farmers, a determination was made to create visual WPS outreach materials in the native language of these farmers. The Education staff reviewed available WPS training tapes, WPS Worker flip chart and Handler manual and settled on creating a slide show, with voice over by translators from Pacific Gateway Foundation.
- Work continues on the development of a written script in English with the next phase having translators convert the English script into Ilocano, Laotian, Mandarin, Cantonese and Tagalog. We anticipate completing this slide show before the end of the program year.

Endangered Species Protection Work plan:

(No activities scheduled)

Enforcement Work plan:

(Statistical numbers will be reported by Avis in the 5700-33H Form.)

Complaints that were followed up by island:

Oahu:

- No tolerance for dimethoate on cucumbers at wholesale level found by Department of Health inspectors. Follow up inspection with cucumber grower conducted; no dimethoate used by applicator.
- Odor complaint concerning accidental bottle breakage (by alleged cat) and spill of Diazinon in residential setting. Fire Department were first responders.

Maui/Molokai:

- Samples from 4 basil grower were collected during the last week in April 2012. Samples were screened for OP and carbamates. Lab results were recently processed indicating one farm sample to be adulterated. That farmer had since discontinued growing of basil. Grower informed of follow-up action and monitoring of his next basil planting.
- A mango farmer complained of pesticide drift from a nearby seed corn company. Lab sampling results indicated no detection.
- A Hana resident complained of inhaling herbicide from a roadside spray application. Seven swab samples were taken from the interior of complainant's vehicle. Lab results of samples indicated no detection of herbicide residue.

Kauai:

- A Kekaha resident smelled a strong odor for several days and believed it was from the corn fields. After investigating, the inspector determined that both seed companies nearest to the home were not making spray applications and roads were being repaved near the complainant's home.
- Another complaint concerned a Department of Agriculture commodities worker entering a treated field prior to the REI expiration. The WPS warning signs were not posted but the complainant also did not check the CNS for spray application information.

Hawaii Island:

- 2 complaints were filed by a resident concerning Malathion spray drift onto residence. Lab results indicate the presence of a.i. malathion.
- 2 of 6 basil growers were found to have residues of 0.25 ppm oxamyl and 0.02 ppm oxamyl on their basil samples.
- A grower's pak choi crop was tested and found to be contaminated with 0.001 ppm mefenoxam.

Other:

- A non-profit organization on Hawaii Island (The Arc of Hilo) with an agricultural training program for people with developmental or other disabilities did not provide training in the federal Worker Protection Standard. Referral was made to Pesticide Education staff for follow-up training.
- Compliance verification inspections are ongoing.

Worker Safety Program Work plan:

- Five (5) Worker Protection Standard training sessions were provided to these farms or groups; Hawaii Community College, UH College of Tropical Agriculture, Komohana Research Station, The ARC of Hilo, Olomana Orchids. A total of 9 individuals participated in the WPS agricultural worker or handler trainings.
- Site visits were conducted with the following companies for improving on-site compliance with WPS; Monsanto Hawaii, Olomana Orchids, , UH college of Tropical Agriculture, TC Farm, H & L Farm/Pacific Floral Exchange, Inc., Big Island Dairy, Maui Grown Tomatoes.

Other trainings provided by Pesticide Education section:

- Basic pesticide safety training was provided to staff at: Mahelona Medical Center-Kauai, Pacific Gateway Thai Famers, HDOA Animal Quarantine, Maluhia O Nuipea
- AG Use compliance awareness provided at: Langsy Farm,
- MSI Compliance awareness provided at: Marukai Corporation – Dillingham Store

- Fumigation Management Plan training provided at: Escobedo Farm, Green Point Nurseries, Cabalce Farm, Hiep Doan's Farm
- Crop Grouping and Commodity Definition Summary Class #986 (18 attendees)

Water Quality Protection Program Work Plan:

These active ingredients are/were under scrutiny by Dr. Chittaranjan Ray, (Interim director) of the Water Resources Research Center, University of Hawaii.

- chlorethoxyfos - does not require full review, completed.
- amicarbazone - Under full groundwater review with Dr. Ray
- thiamethoxam - Under full groundwater review with Dr. Ray
- fluxapyroxad- Under full groundwater review with Dr. Ray

IPM In Schools:

The selection of the vendor for the IPM Pilot Project at Ala Wai Elementary School is still undergoing review and has yet to be awarded by the Department of Education Facilities & Maintenance section.

SFIREG:

(Serving as the EPA Region 9 representative to SFIREG)

- In February 2013; forwarded via email a Bee Kill Investigation Guidance draft to SLAs, tribes and territories for comment.
- In March 2013; forwarded via email a SFIREG Issue Paper: Persistent Herbicide Residues in Compost and Plant Material and the Potential for Adverse Impact.
- In March 2013; SFIREG proposed a discussion (April 2013) with SFIREG Reps on Strengthening State/Tribal Partnerships for Pesticide Regulation.